

ABSTRACT

A method of readily detecting or differentiating rheumatoid arthritis, which has so far been diagnosed in a comprehensive manner based on various tests and clinical symptoms, and a method of readily and objectively estimating the stage of disease and the degree of dysfunction with regard to rheumatoid arthritis are provided.

The detection and differentiation of rheumatoid arthritis are performed by measuring the levels of L-PGDS in a sample such as a body fluid such that the measurement value is used as an index. Further, the stage of disease or the degree of dysfunction of a rheumatoid arthritis patient is determined using the measurement value as an index.